The Grateful Magpie

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©SEEDNOVEL

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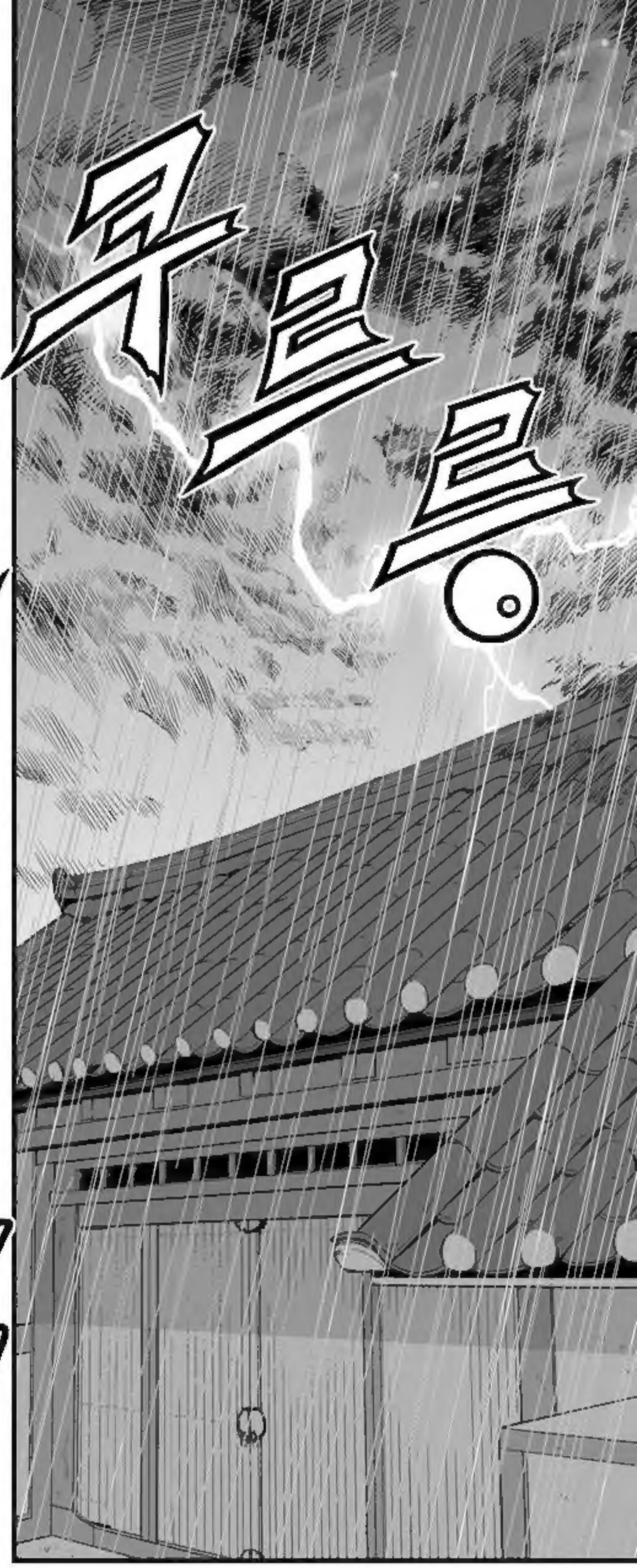
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YOU SCARED?
S, S, S, SCARED OF WHAT?
I, I'M NOT SCARED OF THUNDER EVEN A LITTLE!

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YOU KNOW ABOUT THOSE WHO RECEIVE DIVINE PUNISHMENT, RIGHT?

HOW NORMALLY, LIGHTNING IS PUNISHMENT FROM HEAVEN?

HO, HOW DOES THAT MATTER?

BUT I'M SCARED.

AWU?

THE POINT IS, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DO MANY BAD DEEDS, YOU WON'T GET STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

R, REALLY?

SINCE I'VE COMMITTED SO MANY SINS I'M SUPER SCARED.

SO THE THING IS.....

BUT I'M A TOTALLY BAD PERSON. I'M GONNA GET HIT, PROBABLY.

WHAT'LL YOU DO IF I GET HIT AND THE VINCINITY GETS DEVESTATED?

G, GO AWAY! GET OUT OF THE ROOM!

LET'S SLEEP. IF YOU'RE ASLEEP THEN YOU WON'T FEEL ANY PARTICULAR PAIN.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE THEN DIE ALONE!

JUST STAY LIKE THIS FOR A BIT. IT'S DEPRESSING TO DIE ALONE SO YOU SHOULD DIE WITH ME.

UUU?! BUT WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!

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KUHOK?

GOOD NIGHT, OUR LITTLE CHII.

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WHO, WHO'RE YOU CALLING YOUR LITTLE CHII! AM I A CHILD? YOU PERVERT! PERVERT LECH BIG BROTHER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SOMEONE WHEN SHE'S PANICKED?! GO DIE! LEAVE, GET STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, AND DIE!

YEAH, I WAS WRONG. I DESERVED TO BE HIT.

THEN I'LL LEAVE. GOOD NIGHT.

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THAT HURTS!

I HIT YOU SO THAT IT HURT-!!

DID I DO ANYTHING WRONG?!

ARE YOU ASKING BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW?!

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.....NO HELPING IT.

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AH, I'M SO SLEEPY THAT IT'S TROUBLESOME TO GO TO THE ROOM SO SHOULD I JUST SLEEP HERE?

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SAYING THAT AGAIN.

BECAUSE AS LONG AS BIG BROTHER DIES, MY LIFE IS NOT WASTED.

HEHEH.

.....WHY'RE YOU DOING THAT, BIG BROTHER?

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SINCE IT'S FUN HOW NOT EVEN A FEW DAYS AFTER MEETING SOMEONE WHO TALKED ABOUT KILLING AND LIVING I'M IN THE SAME COVERS AS HER.

THAT'S TRUE.

I NEVER IMAGINED EVEN IN A DREAM THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE A LOLICON?

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! WHO'S A LOLICON, WHO!

BIG BROTHER.

TO THINK THAT I WOULD LIE DOWN LIKE THIS WITH THE SCUMBAG, TRASH, LOLICON, PEDOPHILE, DOG PERPETUALLY IN HEAT WHO DECEIVED THE TIGER-NIM INTO BECOMING HIS PLAYTHING AND THAT I'D CALL YOU BIG BROTHER. IT'S A TRULY RIDICULOUS SITUATION.

!!

BECAUSE BIG BROTHER IS A LOLICON.....

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE PAYING SO MUCH ATTENTION TO ME?

JUST FORGET THAT RUMOR. IT'S NOT EVEN TRUE.

I'M NOT AN IDIOT LIKE BIG BROTHER.

SO YOU KNOW THAT I'M PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU?

ALTHOUGH I KNEW, I TRIED TO DENY IT.

SO THE ANSWER YOU CAME UP WITH IS THAT I'M A LOLICON?

YES.

IT'S NOT JUST NOW.

BUT WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS NOW?

EVER SINCE YOU TOLD THAT LIE TO SAVE MY LIFE, ALTHOUGH I BELIEVED BACK THEN THAT YOU WERE SERIOUS, I KEPT THINKING ABOUT IT.

AND WHEN IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US, MY WORRY TO KNOW YOU BETTER ONLY GREW.

HEY! AT LEAST TELL ME THAT YOU KNOW THAT THAT WAS A JOKE!

BUT IT'S THE TRUTH SO THERE'S NO REASON TO.

SO I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

THIS BRAT, I FEEL LIKE SHE'LL END UP AS SAEHEE'S SUCCESSOR.

?

THAT I NEED TO BE CAREFUL.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER REASON, ISN'T THERE?

ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ALREADY KNOW, THIS IS A STORY ABOUT ME.

WILL YOU LISTEN TO IT?

CHII'S STORY

WASN'T VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I THOUGHT LONG BEFORE.

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CHII'S PARENTS ARE PHANTOMS, AND THEY ARE THE MAGPIE COUPLE FROM THE WELL KNOWN "GRATEFUL MAGPIE" FAIRY TALE.

AND CHII IS THE CHILD OF THAT COUPLE.

SHE WAS THE BABY MAGPIE THAT WAS ABOUT TO GET EATEN BY THE SNAKE.

A PASSING SCHOLAR SHOT THE SNAKE PHANTOM DEAD WITH HIS BOW AND SAVED CHII.

AND WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT TO BE THE LAST ONE EATEN,

CHII, WHO WAS STILL YOUNG AND LACKED EVEN THE STRENGTH TO RUN AWAY, WAS ABOUT TO BE EATEN BY THE SNAKE PHANTOM LIKE HER SISTERS.

SHE WAS KEPT ALIVE UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT BECAUSE SHE WAS THE YOUNGEST.

THE SCHOLAR'S LIFE WAS SAVED BY THE MAGPIE COUPLE CRASHING THEIR BODIES TO RING THE BELL.

AND THE SCHOLAR HAD HIS LIFE IN GRAVE PERIL.

IN THE MOST IMPORTANT SCENE OF "THE GRATEFUL MAGPIE",

THE SCENE WHERE THE MAGPIE COUPLE SACRIFICED THEIR BODIES TO SAVE THE SCHOLAR.

MY PARENTS WERE TERRIBLY INJURED BY RINGING THE BELL,

BUT UNLIKE IN THE STORY, THEY DID NOT DIE.

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40 POINTS.

BUT IF YOUR PARENTS ARE PHANTOMS, SHOULDN'T THERE HAVE BEEN AN EASIER WAY TO RING THE BELL?

LIKE CHANGING INTO HUMANS AND RINGING IT WITH A TOOL.

IN ADDITION IT ACTS LIKE POISON TO PHANTOMS LIKE ME.

BECAUSE WE ARE ELEMENTS OF CHAOS.

THE MOMENT ANYONE HEARS THE RING OF A BUDDHIST TEMPLE'S BELL, ALL BLIGHTS DISAPPEAR AND WISDOM GROWS. IT HAS THE POWER TO PURIFY EVEN THE DENIZENS OF HELL.

SO DID THE MAGPIE COUPLE RECEIVE FATAL WOUNDS.....

IT CAN ACT AS A COMFORT ON EARTH TO THE DENIZENS OF HELL, AND IT CAN INCREASE THE HAPPINESS OF THOSE IN HEAVEN.

I DUG UP MY PARENTS WITH MY BARE HANDS AND DID MY BEST TO CARE FOR THEM WITH MY STRENGTH.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXHAUSTING, I DID NOT GIVE UP. BECAUSE I BELIEVED MY PARENTS WOULD ONE DAY BECOME HEALTHIER.

AFTER THAT, MY PARENTS WERE UNABLE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY. THEY HAD EVEN LOST THEIR SANITY.....

THE SCHOLAR WHO HELPED ME BURIED MY PARENTS AND LEFT ME ALL ALONE WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

RATHER, THEY WERE SLOWLY GETTING WORSE. NOW THEY CANNOT EVEN RECOGNIZE MY FACE.

AND THEN [THAT PERSON] VISITED ME.

BUT AFTER ONE HUNDRED YEARS, TWO HUNDRED YEARS, OF NO IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR CONDITION,

IF I DIE OR IF BIG BROTHER DIES, THAT PERSON PROMISED TO REDUCE THEIR ILLNESS.

SO I.....

BY THAT PERSON, DO YOU MEAN THE PHANTOM YOU MADE A PROMISE WITH BY SWEARING ON YOUR NAME?

YES.

I ATE THE TALISMAN THAT PERSON GAVE ME SO I COULD FIND AND KILL YOU.

SO IN ORDER TO KILL BIG BROTHER WHO THE TIGER-NIM FORBADE FROM BEING HARMED,

AT FIRST I WAS DETERMINED TO SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR MY PARENTS WHO WERE IN THAT STATE BECAUSE OF ME.

AND BECAUSE ALL I KNEW ABOUT YOU WAS FROM THE RUMOR, I DID NOT CARE IF A HUMAN LIKE YOU DIED.

WHAT? SOMETHING FEELS REALLY OFF?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME.

NO, I ALREADY KNOW.

BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT DIRECTLY FROM YOU.

BUT AFTER WATCHING YOU AND LEARNING ABOUT YOU LITTLE BY LITTLE, I REALIZED THAT THE RUMOR WAS FALSE.....

SO BIG BROTHER, PLEASE TELL ME.

IF THIS IS SIMPLY PITY FOR ME,

OR.....

.....WAIT.

RANGII ONLY NOTICED AFTERWARDS AND CAME TO WHERE I WAS.

RANGII FORBADE ANY VIOLENCE. CHII TRIED TO KILL ME.

THE DOUBT SAEHEE SHOWED WHEN SHE FIRST SAW CHII. I NEARLY GOT KILLED BY CHII.

IS THAT IT-

THE REASON WHY I FELT SOMETHING WAS OFF THIS WHOLE TIME-!!

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